

- Please note!*
- “No subtherapeutic antibiotics added” or “Not fed antibiotics”

Animals can receive antibiotics by means other than feed. USDA must alter the second phrase to read: “Not administered antibiotics.” USDA’s proposed definition for these phrases includes the statement, “Livestock are not fed subtherapeutic levels of antibiotics.” USDA should change the definition to read: “Livestock do not receive subtherapeutic levels of antibiotics.”

- “Free Range, Free Roaming or Pasture Raised”

USDA’s definition for this phrase regarding the environment provided to cattle, sheep and swine is loophole-ridden. It should be re-defined to require that: 1) “Each individual animal shall have continuous, unconfined and unobstructed access to pasture throughout their life;” 2) “Pasture” include: “Vegetative cover and environment appropriate to the species in terms of diet and natural behavior;” and 3) “Animal density must be restricted so that animals can fulfill normal patterns of behavior and so that healthy pasture or range is maintained.”

- “Grass fed”

USDA’s proposed language would allow farmers confining animals in feedlots to make a “grass-fed” claim. USDA must require that: Animals have had continuous, unconfined and unobstructed access to grass (including legumes and forbs) pastures throughout their life. When free-standing forage is unavailable during the winter season cattle will continue to be fed an 85% forage derived diet.”

The address for USDA is: Chief, Standardization Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2603-S, Stop 0254, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0254. Comments can also be emailed to marketingclaim@usda.gov. Refer to Docket No. LS-02-02. Comments submitted by AWI to USDA can be viewed at www.awionline.org/farm. 🐾

Thanks - Michael Frank
FROM AWI mailing - see back



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